assistance is extended to the State of Assam every year depending upon receipt of viable proposals and availability of funds.

For powerloom sector a sum of Rs. 4.50 lakhs is provided every year for Powerloom Service Center at Guwahati under the Northern India Textile Research Association.

(b) The concessions/facilities being given to weavers in the State of Assam include: funding of projects under Project Package Scheme by Central and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 and waiver of contribution of the benefitting agency under the Freelance Designer Scheme.

Textile Mills in Assam

1513. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills in cooperative, public and private sectors functioning in Assam at present;

(b) the number of workers working therein separately;

(c) the financial assistance provided to these mills during the last five years till date; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The number of Cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) in cooperative, Public and Private Sector functioning in Assam as on 30.9.99 and the number of workers engaged is given below:

	No. of Mills	No. of workers engaged
Cooperative Sector	2	789
Public Sector		
(a) State Government	4	946
(b) Central Government	1	182
Private Sector	1	942
TOTAL	**8**	**2859**

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Textiles does not provide financial assistance to the private and co-operative sector mills. The financial assistance given to the Public Sector mills (NTC) during the last five years are as follows:

Year	Rupees in Lakh
1994-95	150.59
1995-96	183.30
1996-97	246.10
1997-98	555.88
1998-99	173.02

Reduction in export Price by Coir Board

1514. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have given any instructions to the Coir Board to reduce the rate of existing minimum export price of 1997 to the rate of 1995; and

(b) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) and (b) The MEP was last revised in 1995. The Central Government had not agreed to any further upward revision because a study was being conducted by the Coir Board for reviewing the matter. It was decided to take a decision in this regard on receipt of the study report.

Corpus fund for jute Industry

1515. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Jute Industries has agrued the Centre to create corpus fund out of the production cess collected from the industry, for modernization product development and market promotion; and